

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

#### Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for forming a compact from a powder, comprising the steps of:

applying a solution obtained by dissolving a lubricant in a solvent to a forming portion of a mold body;

evaporating the solution to form a crystallized layer on a surface of the forming portion; by

filling a the forming portion formed in a of the mold body with a raw powder; and then

fitting upper and lower punches into the forming portion, comprising the steps of:

~~applying a solution obtained by dissolving a lubricant in a solvent to the forming portion prior to filling the forming portion with a raw powder; and evaporating the solution thus applied to thereby to form a crystallized layer on the surface of the forming portion.~~

Claim 2 (original): The method for forming a compact from a powder according to claim 1, wherein the lubricant comprises an oxo-acid-based metal salt.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The method for forming a compact from a powder according to claim 1, wherein the lubricant is at least one selected from a group consisting of a phosphate metal salt, a sulfate metal salt, a borate metal salt, a silicate metal salt, a tungstate metal salt, an organic-acid-based metal salt, a nitrate metal salt and a carbonate metal salt.

Claim 4 (original): The method for forming a compact from a powder according to claim 3, wherein the lubricant is at least one selected from a group consisting of dipotassium hydrogen phosphate, disodium hydrogen phosphate, tripotassium phosphate, trisodium phosphate, potassium





Claim 19 (currently amended): The method for forming a compact from a powder according to claim 1 ~~claims 2 to 18~~, wherein no halogen element is included in the lubricant.

Claim 20 (currently amended): A mold apparatus for powder molding, comprising:  
a mold body with a through-hole for forming a side of a compact;  
a lower punch ~~to be fitted~~ for fitting into the through-hole from beneath;  
an upper punch ~~to be fitted~~ for fitting into the through-hole from above;  
a spray pump ~~from which~~ for spraying a lubricant solution ~~is sprayed~~ to the through-hole;  
a heater provided around a forming portion of the mold body, the forming portion being defined by the through-hole and the lower punch; and  
a temperature control system for keeping a temperature of the heater higher than an evaporating temperature of the solution.

Claim 21 (currently amended): A mold apparatus for powder molding, comprising:  
a mold body with a through-hole for forming a side of a compact;  
a lower punch ~~to be fitted~~ for fitting into the through-hole from beneath;  
an upper punch ~~to be fitted~~ for fitting into the through-hole from above;  
a spray pump ~~from which~~ for spraying a lubricant solution ~~is sprayed~~ to the through-hole;  
a heater provided around a forming portion of the mold body, the forming portion being defined by the through-hole and the lower punch; and  
a temperature control system for keeping a temperature of the heater higher than an evaporating temperature of the solution, but lower than a melting temperature of the lubricant.